

December 4, 1999

1192 99 L 51-7 P 3 39  
Q. Scout  
535 w. 111<sup>th</sup> St. #51  
New York, NY 10025

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852.

Dear Madam or Sir:


As I understand, you are currently working on proposed regulation language that would affect the ability of doctors to perform artificial insemination for lesbians. Your working proposals that donor sperm must only be inseminated if from a sperm bank, or from a person with which the woman is having sexual relations specifically restricts the ability of lesbian women to have their male friends become 'known donors' for their children.

Since doctors office inseminations are required to be quarantined against HIV, I have adamantly pushed all of my lesbian friends away from the at home method and encourage them to use the doctors office, thereby protecting against any risk of HIV. This regulation would have the direct effect of only allowing lesbians whose gay male friends are donating sperm to perform the process at home, under admittedly riskier conditions.

There are legal implications as well, since many states have laws that consider a person to be a 'father' if the sperm insemination is done at home, but only a 'donor' if it's done through a doctor. For families that have been built around two mothers and the children, our court-based refusal to recognize this arrangement, and instead allow a person with no personal connection to the children to suddenly gain custody as the 'father' has been very damaging to the parents and children caught in this situation.

I urge you to reconsider your working proposal, perhaps you are unaware of these adverse implications, because I cannot think that you are creating this regulation particularly to target lesbians.

Sincerely,

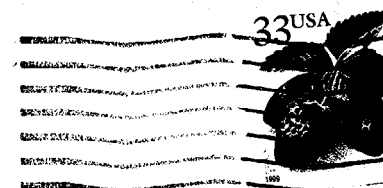


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